

PAIRED TEXTS

RIDE THE SLOPES

Olympic winner, Lindsey Vonn, makes skiing look like a piece of cake, but learning to balance and steer while speeding down the side of a mountain on a slippery slope takes an incredible amount of skill and practice. The last thing you want to do is make it to the bottom of the mountain in the most direct route: straight down! Knowing how to balance, steer, and stop on skis will help you make it to the end of the trail in one piece.

Just standing on your skis sounds pretty easy, right? You aren't even moving yet! However, this can be the most difficult skill for a beginner to learn because the way you stand will determine whether you stay upright or fall down when you do start gliding over the snow. For better balance, keep your feet at shoulder width and point your toes together to make a "V-shape" with your skis. This position is called the snow plough, and it helps give you a sturdy base. Your ankles, knees, and waist should stay loose and bent. Keep your arms out to the sides with your poles planted in the snow until you feel comfortable and balanced.

Once you can stand up, it's time to start moving! If you are a beginner, you might not stay standing for long once you begin to slide. Don't give up! Keep your feet in the snow plough position because it helps you control your speed. The wider you spread your heels, the slower you'll go. The most important thing to remember when you are skiing is to keep your eyes ahead in the direction you want to go. You will be tempted to look down at your feet or the snow, but if that's where you look, that's where you'll end up.

Learning to steer and stop takes a lot of practice, but if you keep trying, you'll get it. To steer, just remember to point your skis in the direction you want to go. If you want to stop, turn sideways by pointing your skis across the hill. Skiing is definitely not as easy as it sounds, so make sure to keep practicing on the beginner's slope for your own safety (and everyone else's, too!).



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SLEDDING SAFELY

SNOW DAY! School's cancelled, the ground is white, and you want to get out and play! Before you grab your sled and head to Daredevil's Hill, be sure you are protecting yourself from injury.

First, be sure you are dressed warmly. Wearing layers will keep you the warmest. When Mom insists you wear a coat over your jacket over your shirt and pants, pl...

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until your heart's content. Make sure the hill you'll be flying down is free of trees

hypothermia: medical emergency when body temperature is too low and can cause death

and debris, like rocks or sticks. Also be sure the snow is soft, not glazed over with ice. Finally, be sure the bottom of the hill has a long runoff end. You will need room to come to a stop.

Head to the top of the hill and check the slope. Make sure all of your friends are out of the way before you take your turn. You don't want to cause a pile-up!

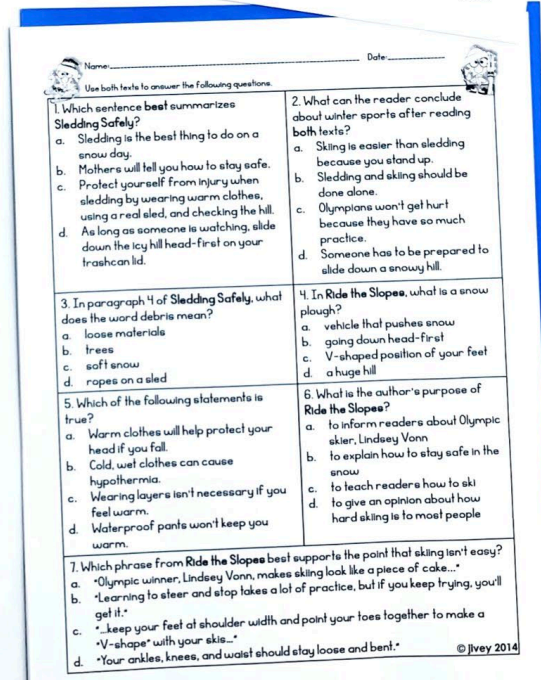


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We have been working through these paired texts and the kids love reading and learning about things they weren't aware of. The questions bring up great discussions and sometimes even research opportunities too! Great resource!

Jennifer W., 4th Grade Teacher

completely independent
practice for students
reading above 4th-5th
grade level



two levels of each
passage for
differentiation

digital (self-grading) and
printable formats

seven multiple choice questions (each question assessing a different standard)

one constructed
response essay prompt

two styles of articles:
2-column and full page

Olympic winner, Lindsey Vonn, makes skiing look like a piece of cake, but learning to balance and steer while speeding down the side of a mountain on a slippery slope takes an incredible amount of skill and practice. The last thing you want to do is make it to the bottom of the mountain in the most direct route: straight down! Knowing how to balance, steer, and stop on skis will help you make it to the end of the trail in one piece.

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Just standing on your skis sounds pretty easy, right? You aren't even moving yet! However, this can be the most difficult skill for a beginner to learn because the way you stand will determine whether you stay upright or fall down when you do start gliding over the snow. For better balance, keep your feet at shoulder width and point your toes together to make a "V-shape" with your feet. This position is called the snowplow. It helps give you a sturdy base. Keep your knees, knees, and waist loose and bent. Keep your arms out to the sides with your poles in your hands. The snow until you feel confident and balanced.

Once you can stand up, it's time to start moving! If you are a beginner, you might not stay standing for long once you begin to slide. Don't give up! Keep your feet in the snow plough position because it helps you control your speed. The wider you spread your heels, the slower you'll go. The most important thing to remember when you are skiing is to keep your eyes ahead in the direction you want to go. You will be tempted to look down at your feet or the snow, but if that's where you look, that's where you'll end up.

Learning to steer and stop is a lot of practice, but if you keep trying, you'll get it. To steer, just remember to point your skis in the direction you want to go. If you want to stop, turn sideways by pointing your skis across the hill. Skiing is definitely not as easy as it sounds, so make sure to keep practicing on the beginner's slope for your own safety (and everyone else's, too!).



SNOW DAY! School's cancelled, the ground is white, and you want to get out and play! Before you grab your sled and head to Daredevil's Hill, be sure you are protecting yourself from injury.

First, be sure you are dressed warmly. Wearing layers will keep you the warmest. When Mom insists you wear a coat over your jacket over your shirt and pants, plus a scarf, gloves, and a hat, she is just trying to be sure you don't get **hypothermia**¹. If you have waterproof pants and shoes, wear them. Snow will stick to your clothes and then melt, causing you to be wet and even colder.

Now that you are bundled up, grab your sled. No... not a trash can lid or sliding carpet because those items are almost impossible to steer and control. You should have a sled that has a place to sit with your legs in front of you, as well as ropes for steering. Don't forget your helmet! You don't need a specific type of helmet. You can wear your bike helmet.

You're almost ready to ride! Once you're sure the hill is safe, you can sled until your heart's content. Make sure the hill you'll be flying down is free of trees.

■ **'hypothermia:** medical emergency when body temperature is too low and can cause **death** to quit working

and debris, like rocks or sticks. Also be sure the snow is soft, not glazed over with ice. Finally, be sure the bottom of the hill has a long runoff end. You will need room to come to a stop.

Head to the top of the hill and check the slope. Make sure all of your friends are out of the way before you take your turn. You don't want to cause a pile up! Sit with your feet at the front of the sled (not head first), hold on to the ropes, and lean forward to start sliding; or have someone give you a little push from behind. Hold on tight, keep your eyes open, and laugh or squeal with delight! Hopefully, Mom remembered to grab her camera so you can see for yourself how much fun you were having on your snow day!



are one of the ways before you take your turn. You don't want to cause a pile-up! Sit with your feet at the front of the sled (not head-first) and hold on to the ropes. Lean on forward to start sliding, or have someone give you a little push from behind. Hold on tight, keep your eyes open, and have with delight! Hopefully, Mom remembered her camera so you can see for yourself how much fun you were having on your snowy day!

1. Which sentence best summarizes Sledding Safely? *

1. Which sentence is correct?
- ☐ Protect yourself from injury when sledding by wearing warm clothes, using a real sled, and checking the hill.
 - ☐ As long as someone is watching, slide down the icy hill head-first on your trashcan lid.
 - ☐ Sledding is the best thing to do on a snow day.
 - ☐ Mothers will tell you how to stay safe.

2. What can the reader conclude about winter sports after reading both texts? *

- ☐ Olympians won't get hurt because they have so much practice.
- ☐ Skiing is easier than sledding because you stand up.
- ☐ Someone has to be prepared to slide down a snowy hill.
- ☐ Sledding and skiing should be done alone.

3. In paragraph 4 of *Sledding Safely*, what does the word *debris* mean? *

Name: _____ Date: _____

Use both texts to answer the following questions.

1. Which sentence **best** summarizes **Sledging Safety?**
- a. Sledging is the best thing to do on a snowy day.
 - b. Mothers will tell you how to stay safe.
 - c. Protect yourself from injury when sledging by wearing warm clothes, using a real sled, and checking the hill.
 - d. As long as someone is watching, slide down the icy hill head-first on your trashcan lid.
2. What can the reader conclude about winter sports after reading **both** texts?
- a. Skiing is easier than sledging because you stand up.
 - b. Sledging and skiing should be done alone.
 - c. Participants won't get hurt because they have so much practice.
 - d. Someone has to be prepared to slide down a snowy hill.

3. In paragraph 4 of **Sledding Safely**, what does the word debris mean?

- a. loose materials
- b. trees
- c. soft snow
- d. ropes on a sled

4. In **Ride the Slopes**, what is a snow plough?

- a. vehicle that pushes snow
- b. going down head-first
- c. V-shaped position of your feet
- d. a huge hill

5. Which of the following statements is true?

- Warm clothes will help protect your head if you fall.
- Cold, wet clothes can cause hypothermia.
- Wearing layers isn't necessary if you feel warm.
- Waterproof pants won't keep you warm.

6. What is the author's purpose of *Ride the Slopes*?

- a. to inform readers about Olympic skier, Lindsey Vonn
- b. to explain how to stay safe in the snow
- c. to teach readers how to ski
- d. to give an opinion about how hard skiing is to most people

7. Which phrase from **Ride the Slopes** best supports the point that skiing isn't easy?

- a. "Olympic winner, Lindsey Vonn, makes skiing look like a piece of cake..."
- b. "Learning to steer and stop takes a lot of practice, but if you keep trying, you'll get it."
- c. "...keep your feet at shoulder width and point your toes together to make a "V" shape" with your skis..."
- d. "Your ankles, knees, and waist should stay loose and bent."

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TWO LEVELS PROVIDED OF EVERY PASSAGE

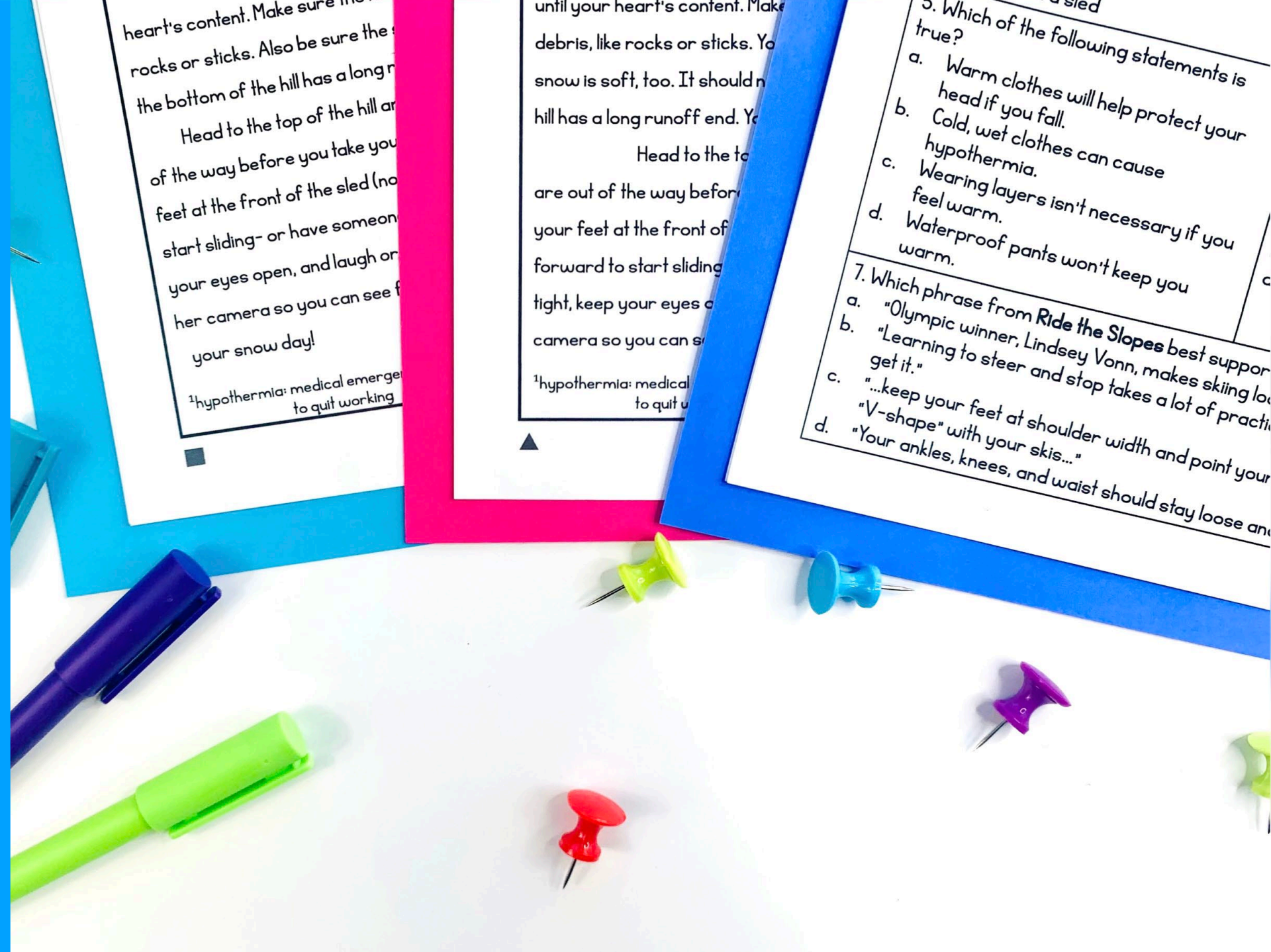
on grade level for 4-5

AND

on grade level for 6-7

discreet symbols on the
passages to denote the
level of passage

the same questions can
be answered no matter
the level given



PASSAGES INCLUDED:

★ how snow forms and Snowflake Bentley


★ winter sports: how to ski and sled safety

★ frost (informational paired with the Russian Fairy Tale, "King Frost")

ANSWER KEYS NOTE CORE STANDARDS

Snowflakes

The water cycle is never-ending. Evaporation happens when the sun heats the water in our oceans, lakes, rivers, and other bodies of water. Water takes the form of a gas called vapor, and rises into the atmosphere. As the vapor rises, it begins cooling. When the vapor cools, it turns back into tiny water droplets. This process is called condensation. For those water droplets to form though, they need something to stick to. There are dust particles in our atmosphere, and those pieces of dust actually become the center of the droplets. All of the tiny water droplets come together to form clouds. Sometimes the air is so cold that instead of water droplets, ice crystals form on those specks of dust. When the clouds become too heavy, precipitation occurs. Rain is the most common form of precipitation. However, rain is not what you will see if the temperature is below freezing. If it is below freezing, the ice crystals fall to the ground as snow.



Name: answer key Date: _____

Support your answer to the question with evidence from both texts.

Why are snowflakes unique?

The response may include, but is not limited to:

No two flakes are alike, as Bentley proved with his photos.

Most are symmetrical hexagons with dendrites and plates.


Their formation is dependant upon temperature and humidity.

*accumulate: gather or build up

BENTLEY'S SNOW CRYSTALS

In 1885, Wilson Bentley was a 20-year-old farmer in Vermont. He surprised the world with the first photograph of a snow crystal. In the next 45 years of his life, he captured over 5,000 snow crystals on film. It all started when Bentley was fifteen. His mother bought him a microscope. He was so excited to look at a snowflake up close. But, he was disappointed each time because it would melt. Then, his father bought him a camera. He combined his microscope with his

camera and took the first photograph of a snowflake! He took several more pictures throughout his life. He also collected data when he saw each crystal. This helped him to realize temperature affected the way a snow crystal looked. Bentley taught people about snowflakes with his photographs. He gave lectures and published articles in popular magazines like *National Geographic*.



Wilson Bentley and public domain in the US

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Sledding Safely

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Now that you are bundled up, grab your sled. No, not a trash can lid or sliding carpet. Those items are almost impossible to steer and control. You should have a sled that has a place to sit with your legs in front of you. You also need ropes for steering. Don't forget your helmet! You don't need a specific type of helmet. You can use your bike helmet.

FROST

It didn't snow last night, so what is that icy coating on the plants and grass? There is even a layer of ice on the cars! That sheet of ice is called frost. People have told legends including characters like Jack Frost and Old Man Winter, but they aren't really responsible for the frosty weather in the late autumn and winter seasons.

In the spring and summer, you might wake up sometimes to wet grass even though it didn't rain. That moisture is called dew. The water vapor in the air has cooled. It has turned back into water droplets and settled on objects outside. The same thing happens in the fall and winter, but the air is much colder. A process called **deposition** happens. When the air temperature is below freezing, the vapor turns directly to little bits of ice, called frost. Once the sun rises in the morning, the frost will melt quickly.

There are four types of frost. The type you've most likely seen more often is called radiation frost. This is when tiny crystals form on uncovered objects outside. Advection frost forms when it is very windy. The frost actually forms in icy spikes. People used to say that Jack Frost



¹deposition: gas turns directly to a solid

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King Frost

From *More Russian Picture Tales*, by Volody Vernick

Once upon a time there lived an old man and his wife. She had one daughter of her own, and he had one of his own. And the old woman took a dislike to her step-daughter. Whatever her own daughter did, she praised her for everything and stroked her head, but whatever her step-daughter did, she grumbled at her and scolded her for everything; it was simply dreadful. And the old woman began to want to drive her step-daughter off the face of the earth, and she said to her husband: "Take her away into the dark forest, and let the frost freeze her to death." So there was nothing for the old man to do but harness his horse to the sledge¹, put his daughter in it, and drive her off into the forest. And he brought her right into the middle of the forest, set her down on the snow, and drove off home.

And there the little girl sat in the forest all alone, shivering with the cold. When to look behold there was old King Frost coming towards her, and he said: "Hullo, little girl, are you warm?" And she answered: "Yes, King Frost!" Then he blew a cold breath on to her and asked: "Are you warm, little girl?" And she answered: "Yes, King Frost!" Then he began to make it still colder, he made the branches crack, and covered them with frost, and he was so cold, that you could hear the air creaking. Then he asked her again: "Well, little girl, are you warm now?" And she answered: "Yes, King Frost!" And when he saw that she was a good girl, he felt sorry for her. So he put on her a fur coat, with trimmings of beaver, and made her warm, and said to her: "You're a good girl, and so I'll stop. Here's a little present for you from King Frost!" And he brought her a trunk full of all sorts of things, silver and gold, and bright-colored stones. Meanwhile her step-mother was saying to the old man at home: "I expect your daughter's frozen by now. Go into the forest and bring her back." So he harnessed his horse to the sledge, and set out to fetch his daughter.

¹sledge: a large sled-like vehicle used to pull loads and passengers

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in a window, and at last she saw her said to herself: "Here comes the sledge."

"Baw, wow, baw-wow-wow! The old man's like a flower! She's got a fine present, and so true. The old man drove up with his wife and with her presents. "Well," thought her step-mother, "I'll give her things to the old man's daughter; he'll give said to her husband: "Take my daughter to King Frost give her a share too! The old man sat, and then drove home. And there the girl suddenly, there was King Frost coming!" And she answered: "What's that got to do with King Frost? He's angry and blew a vein!" "Are you warm, little girl?" And she said to him: "I give me the presents, and then go on." And he kept making it colder and colder.

The old man at home: "Go into the forest and watch at the window. She waited towards home. She said to herself: "I'm all in silver and in gold!" "Baw-wow-wow, the old man's up, and it was too true. Instead of

Learn to use both texts to answer the following questions.

1. Which sentence best summarizes Sledding Safely?

a. Sledding is the best thing to do on a snow day.
b. Mothers will tell you how to stay safe, so sledding by wearing warm clothes, using a sled, and checking the hill down the icy hill head-first on your trashcan lid.
c. Protect yourself from injury when sledding by wearing warm clothes, using a sled, and checking the hill down the icy hill head-first on your trashcan lid.
d. As long as someone is watching, slide down the icy hill head-first on your trashcan lid.

2. What can the reader conclude about winter sports after reading both texts?

a. Skiing is easier than sledding because you stand up.
b. Sledding and skiing should be done alone.
c. Olympians won't get hurt because they have so much practice.
d. Someone has to be prepared to slide down a snowy hill.

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The bundle includes 39 pairs of passages and their corresponding questions -- more than a year at your fingertips!

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GRADES 4-6

LEGEND OF LOCH NESS

Could there really be a giant monster living in a Scottish lake? It is possible! For example, e-writers from the Internet would like you to believe that Loch Ness is a monster. They say it lives in the lake and it would be a good idea to believe that. They say it lives in the lake and it would be a good idea to believe that. They say it lives in the lake and it would be a good idea to believe that.

MEGALODON: NOT A MYTH

Megalodon means "big tooth." When scientists who study fossils, called paleontologists, found shark teeth that resembled those of a shark, they called them megalodon. They thought these teeth had been made by a shark that lived in the ocean. They thought these teeth had been made by a shark that lived in the ocean.

IN PRINT & DIGITAL FORMATS

ideas by jivey